

### **AMENDMENT**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A data quality auditing tool, comprising:  
a rule-based programming data analyzer that compares received data to be audited against a set of rule-based criteria and identifies as unacceptable data that data which violate the rule-based criteria, wherein the set of rule-based criteria is implemented incrementally as an understanding of rules associated with the set of rule-based criteria is gained.
2. (Original) The tool as in claim 1, wherein the rule-based criteria are business rules and data conventions.
3. (Original) The tool as in claim 1, wherein the rule-based criteria are data rules represented as constraints on data which must be met.
4. (Original) The tool as in claim 3, wherein the constraints represent business rules and data conventions.
5. (Original) The tool as in claim 3, wherein the constraints comprise expert system production rules.
6. (Original) The tool as in claim 3, wherein the constraints are static and are applied through the comparison against the data as is.

7. (Original) The tool as in claim 6, wherein the constraints are dynamic and are applied through the comparison against data flows.

8. (Original) The tool as in claim 1, wherein the analyzer comprises a match functionality that compares received data records representing the data to be audited against the set of rule-based criteria to generate a conflict set of one or more candidate rules which are met.

9. (Original) The tool as in claim 8, wherein the analyzer further comprises a conflict resolution functionality that assigns priority among and between the one or more candidate rules which are met and selects one or more rules for execution.

10. (Original) The tool as in claim 9, wherein the analyzer further comprises an action functionality that implements actions to be taken on the data as specified by the one or more rules selected for execution.

11. (Currently amended) A method for data auditing, comprising:  
comparing received data to be audited against a set of rule-based criteria; and  
identifying as unacceptable data that data which violate the rule-based criteria, wherein the set of rule-based criteria is implemented incrementally as an understanding of rules associated with the set of rule-based criteria is gained.

12. (Original) The method as in claim 11, wherein the rule-based criteria are business rules and data conventions.

13. (Original) The method as in claim 11, wherein the rule-based criteria are data rules represented as constraints on data which must be met.

14. (Original) The method as in claim 13, wherein the constraints represent business rules and data conventions.

15. (Original) The method as in claim 13, wherein the constraints comprise expert system production rules.

16. (Original) The method as in claim 13, wherein the constraints are static and are applied through the comparison against the data as is.

17. (Original) The method as in claim 16, wherein the constraints are dynamic and are applied through the comparison against data flows.

18. (Original) The method as in claim 11, wherein comparing comprises matching received data records representing the data to be audited against the set of rule-based criteria to generate a conflict set of one or more candidate rules which are met.

19. (Original) The method as in claim 18, further comprises resolving conflicts by assigning priority among and between the one or more candidate rules which are met and selecting one or more rules for execution.

20. (Original) The method as in claim 19, further comprising implementing actions to be taken on the data as specified by the one or more rules selected for execution.